The Graduate Council met at 3:00 p.m. on June 22, 2015, in McCain Library, Room 203 with Dr. Douglas Rust, Chair of the Graduate Council, presiding.

The following voting members were present: Dr. Janie Butts, Dr. Leisa Flynn, Dr. Bonnie Nicholson, Dr. Scott Piland, Dr. Kyna Shelley, Dr. Amy Slagle, and Dr. Teresa Welsh.

The following voting members were represented by proxies to constitute a quorum: Dr. Bonnie Nicholson for Dr. Jonathan Barron, Dr. Teresa Welsh for Dr. Susan Hrostowski and Dr. Douglas Rust for Dr. Dana Fennell.

The following non-voting members were present: Dr. Karen Coats.

The following guests were present: Ms. Desira Bailey and Ms. Dawn Porter.

1.0 Call to Order
Dr. Rust called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda
Dr. Rust presented the agenda with for approval. Dr. Piland moved and Dr. Rust seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

3.0 Approval of Minutes
Dr. Lambers presented the March 23, 2015 minutes for approval. Dr. Butts moved and Dr. Rust seconded a motion to approve the March 23, 2015 minutes. The motion passed.

4.0 Course and Program Proposals
4.1 College of Arts & Letters – No Business
4.2 College of Business – No Business
4.3 College of Education and Psychology – No Business
4.4 College of Health – No Business
4.5 College of Nursing – No Business
4.6 College of Science and Technology – No Business

5.0 Officers Report
5.1 Chair – Dr. Douglas Rust
No report.

5.2 Chair-Elect – Dr. Janie Butts
No report.

6.0 Standing Committee Reports
6.1 Bylaws Committee – Dr. Kyna Shelley  
No report.

6.2 Credentials Committee – Dr. Jake Schaefer  
No report.

6.3 Election Committee – Dr. Douglas Rust  
No report.

6.4 Policies and Procedures Committee – Dr. Bonnie Nicholson  
No report.

6.5 Program Review Committee – Dr. Janie Butts  
No report.

7.0 Liaisons to University Committees
7.1 Assessment Committee- Dr. Douglas Rust  
No report.

7.2 E-Learning Committee- Dr. James Lambers  
No report.

7.3 Teaching Evaluation Committee – Dr. Bonnie Nicholson  
No report.

7.4 Strategic Planning Committee – Dr. Bonnie Nicholson  
No report.

8.0 New Business
8.1 Consideration of undergraduate GPA requirements for conditional admission to graduate programs at USM  
Dr. Rust presented Council with a request from Athletics to lower the GPA for conditional admission. They stated the reason for the emergency was based on having the ability to grant admission to a few athletes who were considering The University of Southern Mississippi as well as several other universities and decisions needed to be made immediately.

Dr. Rust submitted a handout outlining a few options for Council to consider for this request. Dr. Coats stated that this policy change would not mandate the lowered standard for any program. Any program could opt to continue the current standards for conditional admission. She stated the requested policy change would also apply to any prospective student, not just athletes.
After further discussion, Dr. Butts moved and Dr. Shelley seconded a motion to approve the modification of the conditional admission policy. The vote was 8 to 4 in favor of changing the policy. Council agreed to go with Option 2 from the handout. A council member suggested following the progress to degree of students with 2.0 to 2.5 GPA who were admitted conditionally. It was decided that annual evaluations of this population would be done. If assessment reveals that the university or student is harmed by the change in standards, then the policy will revert back to previous standards. Athletes brought in under this new policy must understand that they do not automatically qualify for graduate assistantships after completion of athletic eligibility.

9.0 Announcements

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2015 at 3:00. The deadline for submitting materials to the Graduate School for the Agenda is Friday, September 4, 2015.

___________________________  _______________________
Greg Pierce, Recording Secretary      Dr. Douglas Rust, Chair
Modification of Graduate School conditional admission policy. (see attached handout)
A. Conditional Admission

A student who fails to qualify for regular admission may be admitted on a conditional basis; provided, however, such a student possesses a grade point average of at least 2.50 (calculated on a 4.0 scale) on the last 60 hours of coursework. Conditional admission can be given only upon the recommendation of the department chair, the college dean, and the Dean of the Graduate School.

A master's student admitted conditionally must maintain a grade point average of at least 3.0 on the first nine (9) hours of coursework at or above the 500 level. If, prior to satisfying the requirements to have the conditional status removed, the student attempts more than 9 hours of coursework at or above the 500 level, he or she must achieve a 3.0 overall grade point average on all coursework. Lower-level coursework (500) taken to remedy perceived deficiencies may not be counted toward the nine-hour requirement. All courses taken to remove conditional status must be taken on a campus of The University of Southern Mississippi.

Additional requirements may be imposed by the department. The student should meet with the department chair to review the requirements.

All requirements must be met or the student will not be allowed to continue to seek a master's degree. Upon the recommendation of the department chair and with the approval of the dean of the Graduate School, the student will be reclassified as a regularly admitted student. A student not maintaining the required grade point average or otherwise failing to satisfy any additional requirements will be dismissed from the program.

GRADUATE BULLETIN OPTIONS

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<tr>
<th>OPTION 1 – omit GPA</th>
<th>OPTION 2 – change GPA</th>
<th>OPTION 3 – no changes</th>
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<td>A student who fails to qualify for regular admission may be admitted on a conditional basis; provided, however, such a student possesses a grade point average of at least 2.50 (calculated on a 4.0 scale) on the last 60 hours of coursework. Conditional admission can be given only upon the recommendation of the department chair, the college dean, and the Dean of the Graduate School.</td>
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<td>Leave the policy alone.</td>
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